Amendment and Response
Applicant: Travis J. Parry et al.
Serial No.: 10/037,685
Filed: October 24, 2001
Docket No.: 10006365-1
Title: NETWORK SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR AUTOMATIC PRINTING OF DIGITAL
PHOTOGRAPHS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 5-6, 11-23, and 28 as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of automated printing of an image at a user printer ~~posted to a network site~~, the method comprising:

arranging a user printer and a sender to be independent of and separate from each other, and arranging the user printer to be independent of and separate from a network site;

defining a print criterion for the user printer;

registering the~~a~~ user printer with the network site to make at least one automatic image request from the user printer to the network site for printing at least one image at the user printer;

determining, via a network communication link between the user printer and the network site, ~~if~~whether the at least one~~an~~ image has been posted at ~~to~~ the network site by the sender;

~~if the image has been posted to the network site,~~ capturing the at least one image from the network site to the user printer upon determining that the at least one image has been posted at the network site; and

automatically printing the at least one image on the user printer according to the print criterion.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein registering the user printer includes defining a printer network address, and wherein defining the printer network address includes defining a unique address associated with the user printer and registering the printer network address with the network site.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein defining the network address includes defining the unique address associated with the user printer as an IP address.

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4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further including defining a user interface, and wherein defining the print criterion includes defining the print criterion via the user interface.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein defining the print criterion includes registering at least one of registering user information, sender information, printing options, and image delivery options.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein registering the user information and registering the sender information includes providing usernames and passwords for a user and a sender, together with the printer network address and the network site address; wherein capturing the at least one image from the network site to the user printer includes logging on to the network site identified by the network site address with the username and the password of the user, and the at least one image being transferred from the network site to the user printer identified by the printer network address.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein registering the printing options includes selecting at least one of a file format input, a file format output, a print medium size, a print medium type, a number of copies, a printing layout, a color printing option, and a finishing option.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein registering the image delivery options includes selecting at least one of a delivery option, a gallery, and an image size.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein registering the user printer includes defining the network communications link between the user printer and the network site, and registering the user printer with the network site via the network communications link.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 9, including defining the network site to be a website.

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11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein registering the user printer ~~with~~ at the ~~network site~~ website includes defining the user printer to include a printing system controller and a web access mechanism.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein capturing the at least one image from the network site to the user printer and automatically printing the at least one image on the user printer include capturing the at least one image via the network communications link.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining ~~if~~ whether the at least one image has been posted to the ~~website~~ network site includes defining a master image list as a list of downloaded images from the network site ~~website~~ and comparing the master image list with the at least one ~~images~~ posted to the network site ~~website~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~12~~ 13, wherein comparing the master image list with the at least one ~~images~~ posted to the network site ~~website~~ further includes retrieving an image list of images posted to the ~~website~~ network site.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein retrieving the image list includes the user printer sending a query to the network site ~~website~~ according to the print criterion via the network communications link.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein comparing the master image list with all images posted to the network site ~~website~~ includes comparing the master image list with the image list retrieved from the network site ~~website~~, generating via the printing system controller an image request, as part of the at least one automatic image request, that identifies the image to be printed, and updating the master image list to include the image after it has successfully been delivered to the user.

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17.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein capturing the at least one image from the network site website includes the at least one image being transferred from the network site website to the user printer according to the image request via the network communications link.

18.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the at least one image being transferred from the network site website to the user printer includes the network sitewebsite receiving the image request from the user printer via the network communications link.

19.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein automatically printing the at least one image on the user printer, includes translating the at least one image captured from the network site into a print job.

20.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein automatically printing the at least one image on the user printer further includes executing the print job by printing the at least one image on the user printer and thereby delivering the at least one image to the user.

21.   (Currently Amended) A method of automated printing of a digital photograph posted to a website, the method comprising:

defining a print criterion;

registering thea user printer at a with the website, the user printer being independent of and separate from the website;

posting, via a sender independent of the user printer and the website, at least one digital photograph at the website;

requesting, via a network communication link between the user printer and the website, the at least one digital photograph from the website for printing at the user printer including:

determining ,via the network communication link, whetherif the at least one digital photograph has been posted to the website;

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capturing, via the network communication link, the at least one digital photograph from the website to the user printer after the at least one digital photograph has been posted to the website by the sender; and

automatically printing the at least one digital photograph on the user printer according to the print criterion.

22.   (Currently Amended) A system for automated printing of an image posted to a network site on at a user printer, the system comprising:

a user printer including an embedded web access mechanism and a printing system controller, the embedded web access mechanism configured to enable directly automatically requesting and directly automatically capturing to the user printer at least one image that has been posted to a network site by a sender, the user printer being independent of and separate from both the sender and the network site; and

a printing system controller,

an embedded web access mechanism and

a user interface in communication with the user printer and configured to enable predefining a print criterion;

wherein the user printer is configured to automatically capture and print thean captured image posted to a network site at the user printer according to thea print criterion predefined via the user interface;.

23.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22, wherein the user printer contains the user interface and printing system controller, the embedded web access mechanism includeswith an embedded application allowing the user printer to communicate with the network site regardless of the network site's operating platform, and a user interface.

24.   (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the printing system controller includes a processor, a memory, device-specific hardware, and input/output circuitry; wherein the embedded web access mechanism includes a printer web page, a printer web server, and a network interface.

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25.   (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the web server is adapted to generate the printer web page, wherein the printer web page is configured to provide the user interface, and wherein the user interface is configured to provide a control communications link to the printing controller for defining the print criterion.

26.   (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the user printer is configured to communicate with the network site via the network communications link for registering the user printer with the network site, determining if the image has been posted to the network site, and capturing the image from the network site to the user printer.

27.   (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the embedded web access mechanism is configured to permit access to the printer web page by the network site via the network communications link.

28.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of automated printing of an image at a user printer posted to a network site, the method comprising:
        arranging a user printer and a sender to be independent of and separate from each other, and arranging the user printer to be independent of and separate from a network site;
        defining a print criterion for the user printer;
        registering thea user printer with the network site to make at least one automatic image request from the user printer to the network site for printing at least one image at the user printer;
        determining, via a network communication link between the user printer and the network site, ifwhether the at least onean image has been posted at to the network site by the sender;
        if the image has been posted to the network site; capturing the at least one image from the network site to the user printer upon determining that the at least one image has been posted at the network site; and

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automatically printing the at least one image on the user printer according to the print

criterion.